

Southeast News

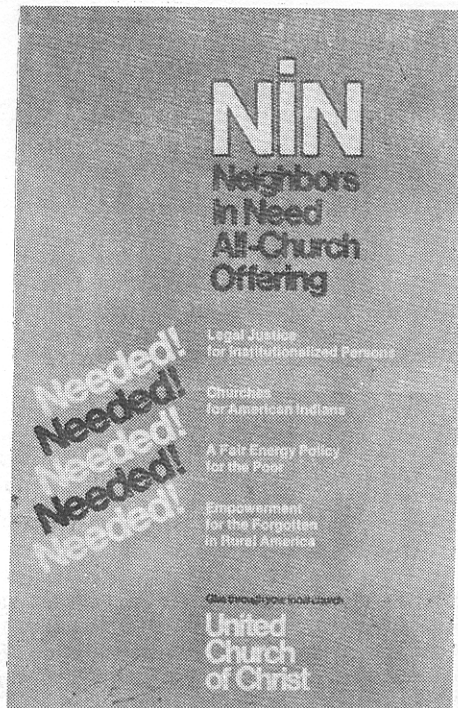
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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOLUME 31

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NUMBER 6



NIN Offering Offers Help

Are you ready to help your Neighbors in Need? Each year, members of the United Church of Christ are invited to respond to the needs of some of their neighbors by giving to the Neighbors in Need all-church offering. Most congregations will receive gifts for NIN on the first Sunday of October — this year, October 5th.

The proceeds from the 1980 NIN offering will provide basic amounts for new programs that have been designated by the UCC executive Council as follows:

- \$140,000 to the Office of Church in Society to enable a program for "Legal Justice for Institutionalized Persons"
 - \$200,000 or 1/3 of net offering to the Council for American Indian Ministry for "Churches for American Indians"
 - \$135,000 to the Office for Church in Society and UCBHM for "A Fair Energy Policy for the Poor"
 - \$135,000 to UCBHM for "Empowerment for the Forgotten in Rural America."
- Plan to give and give generously!

National Youth Event Enjoyed

UCC history was made at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota as 1,500 youth and their advisors descended on the campus for the first National Youth Event of the United Church of Christ. Held June 25-29, the event, which was sponsored by the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, attracted youth from every state in the union.

With a theme of "Vision for Tomorrow — Action for Today" the program included a keynote address by former U.N. Ambassador and UCC minister Andrew Young, UCC, President Avery Post, UCC Affirmative Action Officer Yvonne Delk, and futurist Ed Lindaman.

The busy schedule included a choice of 39 workshops and 26 special interest groups which the youth and adults attended each morning and afternoon. In addition to morning worship services and evening vespers, there were several recreational activities scheduled, along with concerts, coffee houses, dances and films. A youth bash featured youth talent, including the SEC's own Cindy Matkins who performed a vocal solo.

The Southeast Conference was well represented at the event. Molbro Roberts (Midway, GA) served on the planning committee for the event. Youth representatives included Beth Ann Allison (Church of the Savior, Knoxville), Kent Brown

(Belvidere, TN), William Brooks (1st Church, Atlanta), Cindy Matkins (Belvidere, TN), Laura Moore (Central, Atlanta), and Mark Partridge (1st Church, Atlanta). Advisors attending the event were Rev. Marvin Morgan, pastor of First Church, Atlanta and Debbie Schafer,

Cont'd. on Page 2

Association Meetings Scheduled

With summer coming to an end, it is again time for the series of six Annual Meetings held by the associations that compose the Southeast Conference. The following schedule lists the dates and places of this year's meetings:

- Sept. 19-20, Alabama-Tennessee Association, Huntsville, AL
- Oct. 4, North Alabama Association, Mt. Lebanon, Steele, AL
- Oct. 11, Southern Alabama-N.W. Florida Association, Blackwood Church, Headland, AL
- Oct. 18, East Alabama Association, Jones Chapel, Woodbury, GA
- Oct. 19, Central Alabama Association, Watson's Chapel, Woodbury, GA
- Oct. 24-25, Georgia-South Carolina Association, Duncan's Creek, Dacula, GA.



SEC National Youth Event participants: Row 1 [l-r] Nedra Mahone, Beth Ann Allison. Row 2 [l-r] Kent Brown, Laura Moore, Cindy Matkins, Debbie Schafer, Molbro Roberts. Row 3 [l-r] William Brooks, Quinton Lewis, Mark Partridge.

CONFERENCE CORNER

DR. EMMETT FLOYD

I am finding it to be a challenging role to be a part of the Southeast Conference. The trips I have made up to this point have brought home to me the size and grandeur of this area. We are blessed to live in such a beautiful part of the country (in spite of the heat and drought).



I am even more impressed with the spirit and dedication of our people. The churches of our Conference have served the cause of Christ in faithfulness for many years. In spite of being a small denomination in this part of the country the people in our fellowship have acted with imagination and Christian concern to strengthen the work of the Kingdom.

Now a decade makes new demands upon us all. We are called to a new spirit of service to revitalize and help older churches grow in size and effectiveness, to plant new congregations where this is possible, and to enable all of us together to make a more effective witness to the Gospel in our area. I have every confidence that you will respond with increased giving to the local church and to OCWM and with the renewed energy and dedication of your personal lives to our God in Christ Jesus. May His Spirit bless and lead us all.

— Emmett O. Floyd, Conference Minister

New Materials Available

The Southeast Conference now has a Family Life/Changing Lifestyle Traveling Suitcase provided by the Family Life Office of UCBHM. The suitcase contains articles, booklets and references on the following subjects: State of American Families, Marriage and Divorce, Children and Divorce, Sex and Sex-Role Socialization, Lifestyles, Economic/Energy Issues, and Experiential/Worship/Action. Permission is granted to reproduce any of the included material.

The suitcase will be available for loan at various conference meetings, or it may be picked up or shipped from the Conference Office. — Laura Long

Lay Life and Work Annual Retreat Held

Over 80 persons attended the Annual Retreat for Alabama, W. Georgia and N.W. Florida Lay Life and Work, held August 22-23 at Southern Union College, Wadley, AL.

Speakers for the event were Rev. Albert Thornton, interim pastor of Lanett, AL, UCC who addressed the topic of "Family Enrichment." Rev. George Fidler, pastor of Cullman, AL, UCC led a workshop on "Possibility Thinking." The closing communion service was led by Birmingham First Church pastor, Rev. James Myers.

The group voted to make a contribution of \$250 to the Southeast Conference New Church Development program.

Mrs. A.D. Harry, President, remarked that the meeting was very much enjoyed and participants are looking forward to gathering again next year.

Youth Event - Cont'd.

Southeast Conference Youth Core staff person and member of Brookmeade Church, Nashville.

You are invited to contact any of these young people about reporting on the event in your local church. The group wishes to extend its thanks to their local churches, associations, and parents for their support in this event.

Due to the overwhelming success of the National Youth Event, plans are in progress to implement successive national youth meetings to be scheduled during the year intervening the meeting of the United Church General Synod.



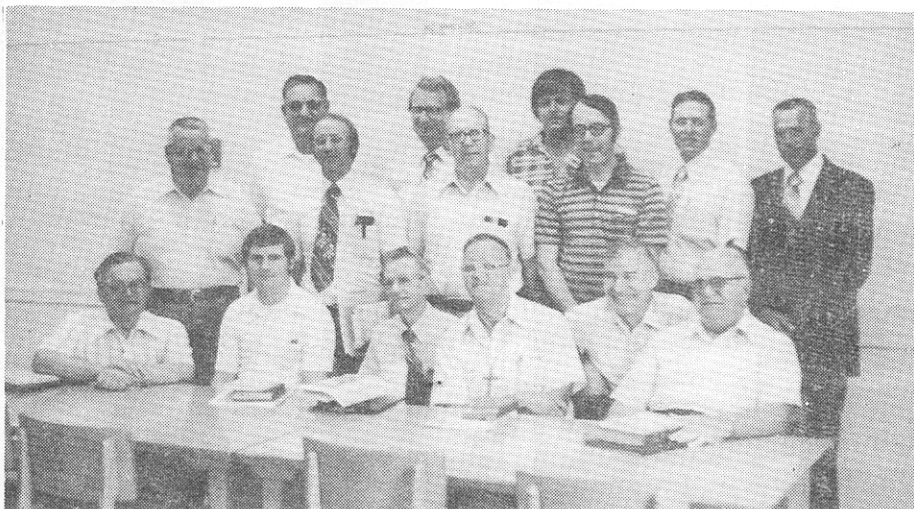
MRS. MARILYN BREITLING

Breitling Named Coordinator

Mrs. Marilyn Breitling, a familiar name and face to many women throughout the Southeast Conference, was recently named Coordinator of the United Church of Christ Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society.

The new structure of the Center will make it possible for women in conference and association groups to make an impact on denominational policy as well as give opportunity for the Center to assist them and encourage their participation in a variety of public-policy issues that the Center hopes to address.

Mrs. Breitling, a staff worker for the Office for Church Life and Leadership since 1976, comments, "I am especially looking forward to new opportunities to empower the ministries of both ordained and lay women in our churches."



The Summer Institute of Religion was held at LaGrange, GA, College July 7-11. Attending were: 1st Row [l-r] James McAdams, Woody Clark, Lawson Clark, Ralph Lee, Fred Morris, Ed Lauderdale. 2nd Row: Prof. David Naglee, Elmer Carnes, Roger Loosier, Roy Bain, Wayne Washburn, Steve Voelker, Herschel Armor, J.T. Lowery.

Services Held for Fred Montgomery

Funeral services were observed at DeForest Chapel, Talladega College on June 28 for Mr. Fred D. Montgomery, a member of the college staff and an active layman at Talladega United Church of Christ, Talladega, AL.

Mr. Montgomery died following surgery at Baptist Medical Center in Birmingham. Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Ann Riley Montgomery, two daughters, a son and other family members.

Well known throughout the Southeast Conference for his lay participation and leadership, Mr. Montgomery had been an employee at Talladega for some 32 years. At the time of his death he was serving the college as Business Manager and Director of Auxiliary Services.

Dr. Joseph Gayles Jr., President of Talladega, said, "Without question the college shall be diminished by his absence. But in the spirit of his devotion to getting things done, we will rededicate ourselves to the pursuit of excellence in his memory."

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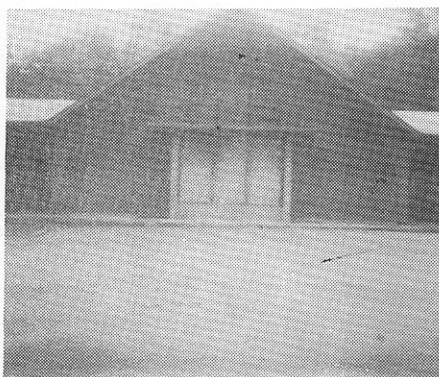
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Russell Woods UCC, Phenix City, AL

AROUND THE CONFERENCE

Russell Woods Congregational Christian Church

From the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River, from the Gulf of Mexico to the mountains of Tennessee, the Southeast Conference covers a broad expanse of territory. Contained within her boundaries are some 120 churches — widely dispersed — widely diverse in heritage and religious expression — and yet united in the conviction that the churches of Jesus Christ "may all be one."

Representing the southern portion of the East Alabama Association is Russell Woods Congregational Christian Church, UCC, located in Phenix City, AL. Begun in 1957, Russell Woods raised its house of worship in a little over two months prior to dedication in November of that year.

Subsequent road construction necessitated relocation of the church. Under the leadership of Rev. Warren Blankenhorn, present Associate Conference Minister, the church moved to its present location on 23rd Court. Located on the top of a hill, the present brick structure consists of a large sanctuary — framed type with exposed beams — a kitchen, small gathering room and seven Sunday School rooms.

The church celebrated the burning of the mortgage in 1974, during the pastorate of Rev. Milton Lenoir.

The church looks forward to the future and to its continuing ministry to the community.

Rev. Warner Noles is the church's present pastor.

MOV Workshops Available

What does MOV stand for? Why, Ministry Of Volunteers, of course! Designed and researched by the Office for Church Life and Leadership, the MOV course and workbooks will tell you lots you didn't know and everything you would ever want to know on how to recruit, train, motivate and retire volunteers in the ministry of your church.

Interested? A MOV Workshop has been scheduled for the Alabama-Tennessee Association for Saturday, October 18 at Belvidere United Church, Belvidere, TN. The cost of \$30 provides lunch and guide books for the pastor of your church and two lay persons.

For further information on this workshop or one that your church or association might like to sponsor, please write to: Rev. Joyce Myers, OCLL, P.O. Box 29883, Atlanta, GA 30359.

Ala-Tenn Youth Plan Program

Gathering at Belvidere UCC on August 16, some 22 youth and adult advisors from four Association churches planned the program schedule for Association-wide youth activities for the coming school year. Programs scheduled are:

- Oct. 4 — Fellowship Day, Belvidere
- Nov. 14-16 — Pop-In, Nashville Brookmeade UCC
- Jan. 25 — Reach-Out Day. Churches get together in clusters for fellowship and activities
- Mar. 20-22 — Work Weekend at either Uplands Retirement Center or Morgan-Scott Project.
- Apr. 25 — Fellowship Day, Huntsville, UCC
- June 5-7 — Southeast Conference Annual Meeting, LaGrange, GA
- Aug. 7-9 — Pop-In For Planning, Belvidere UCC

Churches throughout the Southeast Conference are invited to attend these events. For further information write: Ala-Tenn Association Office, 700 Bresslyn Road, Nashville, TN 37205.

UCC History Published

A new reference book on United Church history is now available for church school, confirmation and new member classes and for prospective church members. Entitled *Adventures in Faith and Freedom, A Short*

History of the United Church of Christ, this 100 page paperback is available for \$3.95. Please mail orders to author Frank Kostyu, Box 607, Montclair, N.J. 07042.

NEWS AND NOTES

Dr. Alford Carleton, recent resident of Uplands Retirement Center, celebrated the 50th Anniversary of his ordination on May 7, 1980. Dr. Carleton, former Executive Vice-President of the United Church Board for World Ministries, now resides at 1862-23 Riverside Drive, Columbus, OH 43212.

Fairfield Glade, TN, Community Church recently passed the \$160,000 mark in gifts and pledges to the church's first building fund. Begun in 1976, the church presently attracts 150 worshippers each Sunday and is in the midst of planning for projected construction in 1981.

Historic Circular Congregational Church in Charleston, S.C., beginning in July, "opened its doors" during the week to tour groups in Charleston. A member of the church was hired to lead groups through the historically prominent facility.

Church World Service, the international relief and development arm of the National Council of Churches, has forwarded \$200,000 to Pakistan to care for refugees from the fighting in neighboring Afghanistan. Funds will be used for tents, medicine, a mobile medical team and several hospitals to serve the refugees. According to reports from Pakistan, 10,000 new refugees arrive each week. One-and-a-half million are expected in the camps by the end of the year.

During July First Congregational Church, UCC, in Crossville, TN, held an interesting program entitled "Session of the Souls" which featured a discussion between characters representing the souls of four outstanding leaders of religious thought in American history. The leaders portrayed were: Paul Tillich, Amy Semple McPherson, Jonathan Edwards and Mar-

garet Fell.

Ben Seymour, son of Rev. Collie Seymour who was the recent pastor of Belvidere, TN, UCC, was married on March 16 to Rebecca Cleland of Knoxville, TN. Ben and Becky are residing at: 2521 Kingston Pike, Kingston Apt. 1411, Knoxville, TN 37919.

Some 33 members of Uplands Retirement Center, Pleasant Hill, TN, served the public schools in the past year by providing enrichment programs of interest to the children.

With 68 children in their care, Elon Home for Children will need an extra effort to provide sufficient financial support. Gifts may be sent in care of the Home to P.O. Box 157, Elon College, N.C. 27244.

The Atlanta Metro-Area UCC churches in conjunction with the United Church Commission for Racial Justice held a workshop on September 13 dealing with criminal justice issues. Rev. Ben Chavis was the speaker.

The new executive offices for Uplands Retirement Center, Pleasant Hill, TN were recently completed. Located in the newly renovated Heritage Hall, the new location will provide more space for patient care in Wharton Nursing Home where the offices were located previously.

Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta, GA is sponsoring its second refugee family — Katy and Jana Dubravcak. The Dubravcaks have moved into an apartment provided by the church and, with the help of other Hungarians in Atlanta, are beginning to adjust to their new life.

Other news from Belvidere, TN, UCC:



Some 130 youth, grades 4-12 and adult advisors attended a camp, held at Camp Maxwell in north Alabama August 8-10, sponsored by the Southern Alabama Area UCC.

For the first time in 30 years Paul Settlege visited Belvidere. Paul is the son of Rev. H.E. Settlege who was pastor of the church from 1939 to 1951. News was also received that Rev. Carlton G. Krueger is doing well following 5 bypass heart surgery. Rev. Krueger pastored the church from 1952 to 1957. Both persons were remembered at the church's August 10 Homecoming attended by over 140 persons.

Button Gwinnett UCC, a new church start of the Southeast Conference, located in Lilburn, GA, will receive a \$10,000 grant from the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries. The funds will be used in the planning and development of new architectural design concepts which incorporate energy conservation measures.

Uplands Retirement Center attracts residents who come, quite literally from all over the world. The Pleasant Hill, TN, facility recently discovered 14 interviews printed over the last 10 years with residents who had lived in China. That's hard to top!

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